

# **Management Plan for Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve**



**South Carolina  
Department of Natural Resources**

**Brett M. Moule  
Heritage Preserve Manager  
2007**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Property Location**

Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve (DP HP) is located (33° 25' 08"N, 81° 28' 00"W (NAD83/WGS84)) adjacent to U.S. Highway 78/Charleston Highway, near the White Pond community, approximately 25 miles southeast of Aiken. The Aiken and Barnwell county lines bisect DP HP. Refer to Figure 1. Ditch Pond has also been referred to as a limesink, sinkpond and "high pond" in the past. The term high pond is a colloquial name typically given to Carolina bays in Edgefield, Saluda, Aiken and Barnwell counties.

## **HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE PROPERTY**

Ditch Pond was purchased October 30, 2002; however, the dedication was not recorded until December 27, 2002. The preserve encompasses approximately 301 acres (Figure 2). The 301-acre acquisition includes an approximately 68-acre tract located on the north side of Weeks Road/SSR64 (Figure 2). This 68-acre tract was not dedicated in 2002. Moreover, the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approved selling this part of the property in May 2006. The Carolina bay makes up approximately 25 acres. The preserve is shown on the Williston USGS quadrangle map and ranges from 330 to 380 feet above mean sea level (Figure 3). The Soil Map of DP HP is illustrated in Figure 4.

## **MANDATE**

South Carolina Code of Law mandates that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) prepare management plans for heritage preserves [S.C. Code Ann. § 51-17-80.5]. These plans detail management objectives, constraints, and strategies for heritage preserves and seek to accurately address both current and future management needs. These management plans are updated periodically due to changing socio-ecological conditions. Moreover, SCDNR requires these plans be reviewed and/or updated no less than every 5 years or as needed to meet the preserve's management goals.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **Primary Objectives**

The Heritage Trust Act states that the primary management objective of all heritage preserves is to "...protect the natural or cultural character of any area or feature..." for which the property was dedicated. [S.C. Code Ann. § 51-17-80.1]. The primary objective of this management plan is to protect the Carolina bay, the rare plant species found within the bay, and a mature upland hardwood forest (oak-hickory complex).

## **Secondary Objectives**

The Heritage Trust Act mandates that heritage preserves be managed "to provide the maximum public usage ... which is compatible and consistent with the character of the area" [S.C. Code Ann. § 51-17-40.7]. Within the constraints imposed by the primary objective, DP HP provides recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife and plant observation, and photography. The preserve will also provide opportunities for research and serve as an outdoor classroom for nature study.

## **HABITATS**

### **Carolina Bay**

According to Wikipedia (2006), "Carolina bays are oval-shaped depressions found along the Atlantic coast [states].... They are also found within the northern Gulf of Mexico coastal plain within southeast Mississippi and Alabama where they are called "Grady Ponds". They vary in size from one to several thousand acres. About 500,000 of them are present, often in groups which vary in alignment around a northwest-southeast trend. The bays have many different vegetative structures, based on the depression depth, size, hydrology, and subsurface. Many are marshy; a few of the larger ones are (or were before drainage) lakes. Some bays are predominantly open water with large scattered pond cypress, while others are composed of thick, shrubby areas (pocosins), with vegetation growing on floating peat mats. Generally the southeastern end has a higher rim composed of white sand. They are named for the Bay Trees that are frequently found in them, not because of the frequent ponding of water." Doug Rayner (1982) considers Carolina bays to be one of the most threatened ecosystems in the state. Depression meadows [Carolina bays] are vegetative communities described by John Nelson (1986) as rounded or irregularly-shaped "wetland[s] with widely fluctuating water level[s] ... dominated by emergent grasses and sedges."

The soil type of the preserve's bay is made up of an amalgamation of Rembert (Re) and McColl (Mc). Refer to Figure 4. The Rembert series is a very deep, poorly drained, slowly permeable soil with slopes of 0 to 2 percent. Its parent material is a clayey and loamy marine sediment. The McColl series is a poorly drained, slowly permeable soil that is shallow or moderately deep to a fragipan and very deep to bedrock. Slopes are less than 2 percent.

### **Rare Flora**

Dr. Al Radford of the University of North Carolina (UNC) first documented the significance of DP HP in 1973. He found three rare plant species: Piedmont Bladderwort (*Utricularia olivaceae*); Florida bladderwort (*Utricularia floridana*); and Robbin's spikerush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*). In 1975, Chick Gaddy, Heritage Program botanist, documented an additional rare plant species, awned meadowbeauty, *Rhexia aristosa*. In 1976, a botany class from UNC identified another rare plant species, slender arrowhead, *Sagittaria isoetiformis*. During the late 1980's and early 1990's, blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum*) was also documented.

## **Upland Hardwood Forest**

There is little known about the vegetative make-up of the upland hardwood forest. It appears that a majority of the preserve—outside the ecotone surrounding the Carolina bay and the cemetery—was clear-cut within the past 10 to 15 years. This area has naturally regenerated into an uneven-aged hardwood forest. There are no up-to-date vegetative surveys available for this preserve.

## **MANAGEMENT**

### **Desired Future Condition**

Desired future condition (DFC) is a term used to express visionary and pragmatic ideas about ecosystem futures. It encompasses the potential for human use woven together with the natural resource or ecological legacy and condition that will exist as a result of attaining mutually compatible resource objectives (Caplan 1992). The DFC for DP HP is an intact Carolina bay with self-regenerating viable populations of rare plant species and a mature upland hardwood forest (oak-hickory complex).

### **Carolina Bay Management**

The Carolina bay found on DP HP is in a relatively undisturbed state; however, there are two ditches that are located on the property that may be negatively affecting the bay's hydrology. The first ditch, approximately 1,200 feet long, extends from the interior of the bay and runs in a northwesterly direction to a culvert under Weeks Road/SSR64. The second ditch extends from White Pond bay to the previously mentioned culvert. A majority of the second ditch is located on private property and runs along the west side of DP HP. Refer to Figure 5.

The influences these ditches are having on the Carolina bay are not currently well understood; consequently, SCDNR's hydrology section began collecting baseline hydrology data March 2006. There have been twenty monitoring wells—two are located on private property, an automatic rain gauge, and a water level indicator installed in and around the bay (Refer to Figure 5). These monitoring tools will provide information on the bay's hydrologic condition, groundwater movement, and long-term rainfall. This information is needed to establish a baseline to discern whether desiccation events are "natural" or not and to determine the impacts the two ditches are having on the bay. Moreover, this data will be used to help develop and implement a restoration plan.

The buffer zone that surrounds the Carolina bay currently does not provide sufficient protection for the bay or the broad range of taxa, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians found within or around the bay. According to a study by R.D. Semlitsch (1998), pond-breeding salamanders "...emigrated to upland habitats and spent 86-99 percent of each year in rodent and shrew burrows and other subterranean refuges [after breeding in wetlands]. Although the wetland is critical to these species for breeding, the surrounding terrestrial habitat is critical for feeding, growth, maturation, and maintenance of the entire juvenile and adult population." This

particular study revealed that “an upland zone 164 meters [approximately 540 feet] wide surrounding the wetland [Carolina bay] would encompass 95 percent of the sample population—constituting the salamanders’ core terrestrial habitat.” Another study conducted by Burke and Gibbons (1995) suggests that a wetland buffer zone of approximately 825 feet would protect freshwater turtle nests and hibernacula. A buffer zone of this magnitude would also protect salamanders and other fauna and help the hydrologic integrity of the Carolina bay stay intact. The SCDNR does not have entire ownership of the bay. The northwest side of the Carolina bay extends onto private property—during the wet season. The SCDNR will work with adjoining landowners to obtain conservation easements or potential expansion of the preserve’s boundaries necessary to protect the integrity of the Carolina bay.

### **Rare Flora Management**

There are no current rare flora surveys available for this preserve. The SCDNR staff, contract botanist, or volunteers will commence conducting annual rare flora surveys upon approval of this management plan. The purpose of these surveys will be to determine whether the DFC is being achieved.

### **Prescribed Fire Management**

According to the August 2006 South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) Smoke Management Guidelines, a Smoke Sensitive Area (SSA) is defined as “any area downwind or down-drainage where smoke may be dangerous or offensive (i.e. roads, towns, chickenfarms, etc.).” Moreover, the guidelines state—according to the Burning Limits Section—that the distance must be greater than 1000 feet to the nearest SSA. Even though fire is a natural part of certain ecosystems in the coastal plain of South Carolina, it will be difficult and impractical in most years to conduct prescribed burning on DP HP because two major roadways (US Hwy 78/Charleston Hwy & Weeks Road/SSR64) define both the northern and southern boundaries of the property (Figure 2). Prescribed burning is not recommended on this preserve at this time due to the smoke management issues, the relative priority this preserve is given compared to other regional properties, and limitation on the number of legal burn days. However, if priorities change or conditions become favorable, SCDNR reserves the right to burn this property in the future.

### **Upland Hardwood Management**

Since prescribed burning is not safe or practical on this preserve, the hardwood forest that surrounds the Carolina bay and makes up the remaining  $\pm 200$  acres of the preserve will be allowed to develop through natural succession. Natural succession can be described as a rejuvenating habitat or environment. According to Moorhead and Coder (1994) “succession of one species or set of species by other species is part of our natural heritage.” An established hardwood forest on DP HP will not only contain a valuable amalgamation of diversified flora species that will provide wildlife with both cover and food, but the hardwood forest will also provide a needed buffer around the Carolina bay.

An initial site evaluation will be conducted to ensure that a diversified and beneficial mixture of species exists—oaks, hickories, Dogwood, Red mulberry, etc.—that can support healthy populations of animals that typically occur within this habitat type. Even though the species associated with oak-mixed hardwood forests are shade tolerant and reproduce via seeds or root-stump sprouts, SCDNR will thin areas/groups/or clumps that contain dominant non-beneficial species (e.g. Sweetgum). In order to maximize the use of the upland hardwood forest by wildlife, it will be managed as uneven-aged multiple species forest. Upland vegetative surveys will be conducted periodically to ensure that the hardwood forest is in good health and is maintaining its diversity. Moreover, this data will be used to help develop and implement a restoration plan.

### **Wildlife Management**

There are no up-to-date fauna surveys—within or around the bay—available for this preserve. The following are wildlife species that have been documented on this preserve: white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Northern bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), Eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), Common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*), red-bellied watersnake (*Nerodia erythrogaster*), cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), white ibises (*Eudocimus albus*), barred owls (*Strix varia*), and great egrets (*Cosmerodius albus*). These species will require little management as long as the DFC is being achieved. The SCDNR staff and/or volunteers will commence conducting fauna surveys upon approval of this management plan.

### **EXOTIC, INVASIVE AND NUISANCE SPECIES**

Exotic and invasive species have the potential to pose significant threats to native species, and their introduction to heritage preserves is generally prohibited. However, the SCDNR reserves the right to introduce exotic species as biological control agents as management tools to control or eradicate other exotic species that may harm native species. Such introductions will be allowable only under the following conditions. First, the harmful exotic species must not present a clear danger to native species. Second, the bio-controls must have proven efficacy against the targeted pest species. Third, the bio-controls must themselves, through wide application, be known not to pose an environmental threat.

Currently, exotics are not problematic on this preserve. However, since this property is located between two major roadways it is at risk of exotic seeds being unintentionally introduced via vehicles that pass by. The SCDNR staff, contract botanist, or volunteers will watch closely for the following aggressive exotic plant species: Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), and kudzu (*Pueraria montana*). If these species are identified on the preserve, they will be controlled using a combination of mechanical manipulation and herbicides. Non-soil active, aquatic herbicides will be used within or around the bay if necessary.

Regulated harvest, trapping or other means may also be used to remove exotic, invasive or nuisance animal species.

## **CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The only cultural or archaeological feature that has been identified within the preserve's boundaries is a cemetery. One goal of this management plan is to provide protection to any cultural or archaeological feature that may be discovered.

### **Management Activities**

The goal of the SCDNR archeologist is to insure the protection of historic properties located on a property by planning in advance to protect cultural resources in perpetuity during both normal and emergency management activities. Should avoidance of cultural resources during management activities become impossible, this section will serve as a guide to protect the significant archaeological and historic resources. This section should be used in consultation with the Heritage Trust Archaeologist.

### **Categorical Exclusions**

Some management activities have little to no potential to affect cultural resources. These undertakings may occur in areas that have been surveyed for historic sites and do not contain historic resources.

The following are examples of categorically exempted activities:

1. Routine grounds maintenance such as mowing and tree trimming;
2. Cemetery maintenance such as mowing, trimming brush, and reseeded;
3. Landscaping such as in-kind paving repair and minor plant removal/ replacement;
4. Rehabilitation of existing trails with in-kind materials;
5. Paving existing roads or parking areas with grading limited to 0-8 cm (0-3 in.), or repaving with in-kind materials without grading or removal of existing surface;
6. Placement, maintenance, or replacement of utility lines, transmission lines, and fences within existing easements;
7. Routine forestry and timber management activities limited to the following:
  - a. plowing existing firebreaks
  - b. prescribed or controlled burns where no above ground architecture is present
  - c. timber harvesting without mechanical equipment
  - d. herbicide applications
  - e. pesticide applications;
8. Plowing existing wildlife food plots;
9. Routine roadway, roadside, and drainage system maintenance activities;
10. Construction or placement of buildings that require minimal site grading (0-8 cm [0-3 in.]), no foundations and no dug footings.



## **Cemeteries**

A cemetery has been identified within the preserve's boundaries. All cemeteries are important features of South Carolina's diverse heritage. Cemeteries not only provide places that people can visit deceased loved ones and friends, they also yield information about our state's social, religious, artistic, and cultural heritage. All cemeteries are protected under the following laws: Destruction of desecration of human remains or repositories (S.C. Code 16-17-600), removal of abandoned cemeteries (S.C. Code 27-43-10, 27-43-30, and 27-43-40), and preservation of abandoned or unmentioned cemeteries (S.C. Code 6-1-35).

## **Traditional Cultural Property**

Traditional cultural property (TCP) is generally defined as one that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in the community's history, and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve is not considered a TCP.

## **Inadvertent Discoveries**

From time-to-time additional discovery of cultural resources may occur. These sites should be brought to the attention of the Heritage Trust Archaeologist. Sites should be entered into the Statewide Archaeological site database and they should be evaluated for significance under the National Register of Historic Places criteria. Should funds or staff not be available to study and evaluate additional discoveries, avoidance of those sites would be the preferred management strategy.

Should Native American remains or funerary objects be discovered, Federal Law stipulates the following:

In the event of an inadvertent discovery of Native American remains or objects on the said lands, Section 3 (d) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (P.L. 101-601) shall apply. The property management plan shall contain a standard operating procedure for notification of appropriate persons.

The standard operating procedure developed by SCDNR is the following:

Notification: In the event that human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, as defined in the NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), are discovered inadvertently on DP HP, the Heritage Preserve Manager, or a qualified designee, must provide immediate telephone notification of the inadvertent discovery, with written confirmation, to the Heritage Trust Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If written confirmation is provided by certified mail, the return receipt constitutes evidence of the receipt of the written notification by the SHPO official or Indian tribe official.

**Ceasing Activities:** If the inadvertent discovery occurred in connection with an on-going activity, the Heritage Preserve Manager, in addition to providing the notice described above, must stop the activity in the area of the inadvertent discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony discovered inadvertently.

**Consultation:** For discoveries found on DP HP, SCDNR staff will consult with Native American tribes who claim cultural affiliation.

**Resuming Activities:** The activity that resulted in the inadvertent discovery may resume thirty (30) days after certification by the notified SHPO of receipt of the written confirmation of notification of inadvertent discovery if the resumption of the activity is otherwise lawful. The activity may also resume, if otherwise lawful, at any time that a written, binding agreement is executed between SCDNR and the affiliated Indian tribes or organizations that adopt a recovery plan for the excavation or removal of the human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. The disposition of all human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony must be carried out in accordance with the NAGPRA Act. Consultation with tribes shall also take place via telephonic or electronic correspondence.

### **Archaeological Research and Investigations**

Research and study opportunities will be encouraged on all heritage preserves. Archaeological investigations on DP HP will be allowed when reviewed and approved by the Heritage Preserve Manager and the Heritage Trust Archaeologist. Requests by professional archaeologists to work on the property must be submitted in writing along with a detailed research design and vitae of project principals to both the Heritage Preserve Manager and Heritage Trust Archaeologist, PO Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202. The archaeologist must meet or exceed the Standards of the Secretary of the Interior (48 F.R. 44738-44739) and act pursuant to the criteria set forth by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Investigations.

## **PUBLIC VISITATION AND USE**

The preserve will be open during official daylight hours as provided in the HTP's Rules and Regulations (Appendix A). The preserve will provide recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife and plant observation, and photography; moreover, it will provide opportunities for research and serve as an outdoor classroom for nature study.

Trails have been developed to facilitate recreation use and provide protection to the bay, rare flora, and the upland hardwood forest.

Camping (Exhibit 1 & 2) and recreational fires are prohibited.

## **REGULATIONS**

Close adherence to regulations outlined in the Heritage Trust Act [Title 51-17 –Parks, Recreation, and Tourism—Heritage Trust Program] and SCDNR Document 2685 Chapter 123 Statutory Authority: S.C. Code Sections § 50-11-2200 and § 50-11-2210 are necessary to protect both the ecological and cultural integrity of this preserve. Inordinate degradation of any portion of the preserve may force the SCDNR to temporarily or permanently exclude the public from that area.

The use of metal detectors or metal/fiberglass probes to search for any objects below the ground surface is prohibited on Department land; moreover, digging or excavating is prohibited.

The SCDNR Law Enforcement Division (LED), plus other state and local law enforcement officials, have the authority to enforce Heritage Preserve Regulations. [S.C. Code Ann. § 51-17-130 (Supp. 1995)]. Other personnel of the SCDNR who hold Deputy Law Enforcement Office commissions also have authority to enforce regulations and will assist the LED.

## **PHYSICAL FACILITIES**

A gravel parking area and a heritage preserve entrance sign have already been installed alongside Charleston Hwy/US Hwy 78. This sign, as well as future signs, shall acknowledge The Nature Conservancy's valuable assistance in protecting this preserve. As time permits, an information kiosk will be added to the parking area. The boundaries of the preserve are painted and marked with "Heritage Preserve" signs. The boundaries will be painted and posted on an as-needed basis, but at least once every five years.

## **FUTURE ACQUISITIONS AND THREATS**

Certain tracts of land surrounding DP HP would make excellent and much needed additions to the preserve. Uplands surrounding the preserve are needed for a buffer to protect the bay. Any future acquisitions will be managed according to the prescriptions within this plan. The SCDNR will remain open to discussions with adjoining landowners about expanding this heritage preserve.

## **ADDITIONAL REMARKS**

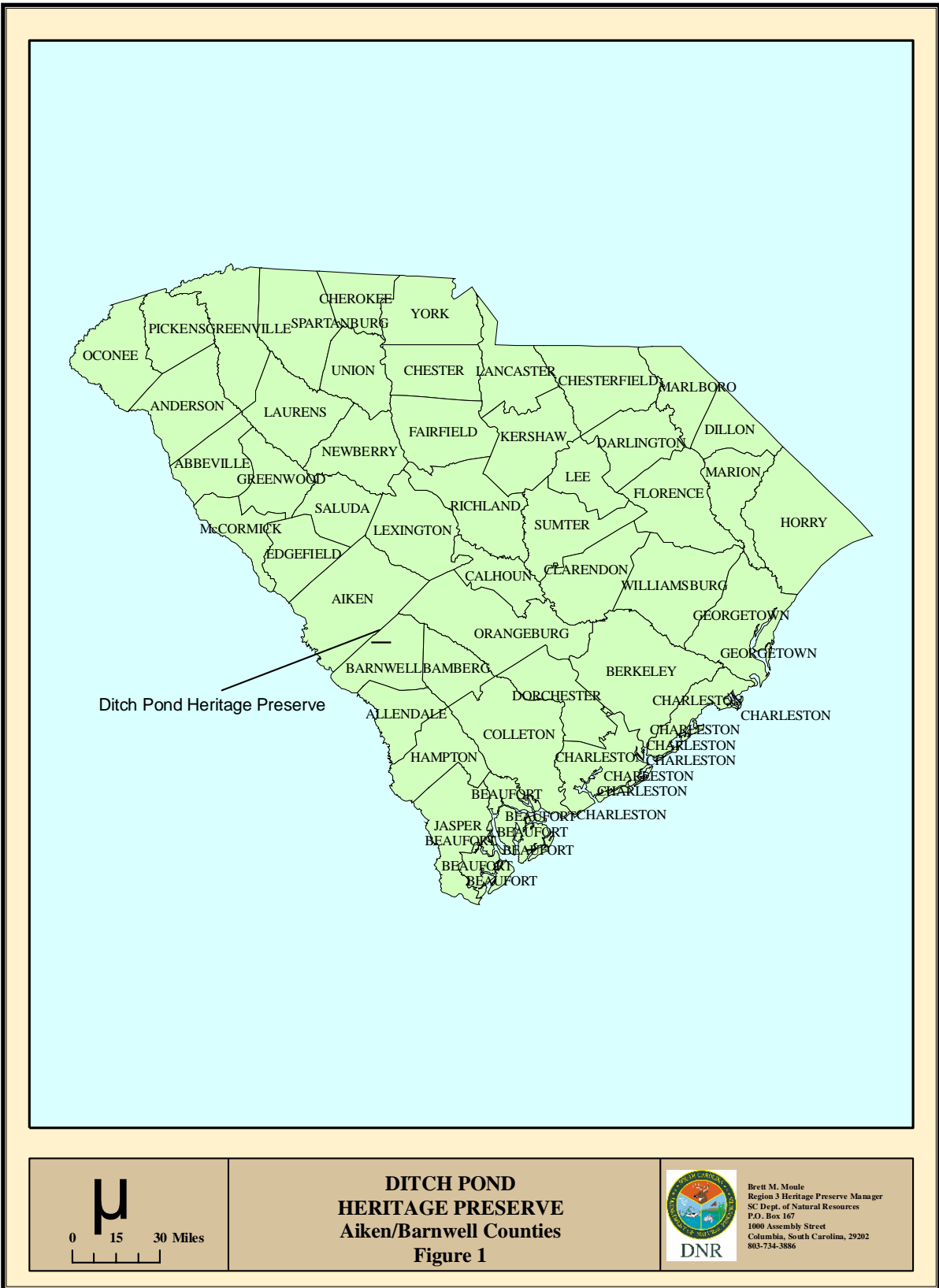
According to the HTA [S.C. Code Ann. § 51-17-80.5 (Supp. 1995)], "All state, federal, county, local, and private groups interested in the area of feature involved shall be allowed to have input into the proposed management plan." Relevant personnel of the SCDNR reviewed this plan. This document is an original management plan that was provided to interested groups and/or relevant personnel.

Specific management actions will be implemented within the preceding management guidelines. However, the SCDNR recognizes that unforeseen management needs and opportunities may arise, and therefore reserves the right to implement action in such situations, as long as these actions (1) adhere to the guidelines of the HTA and (2) further the primary objective of this plan.

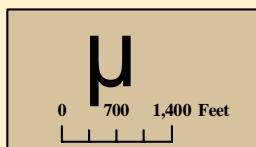
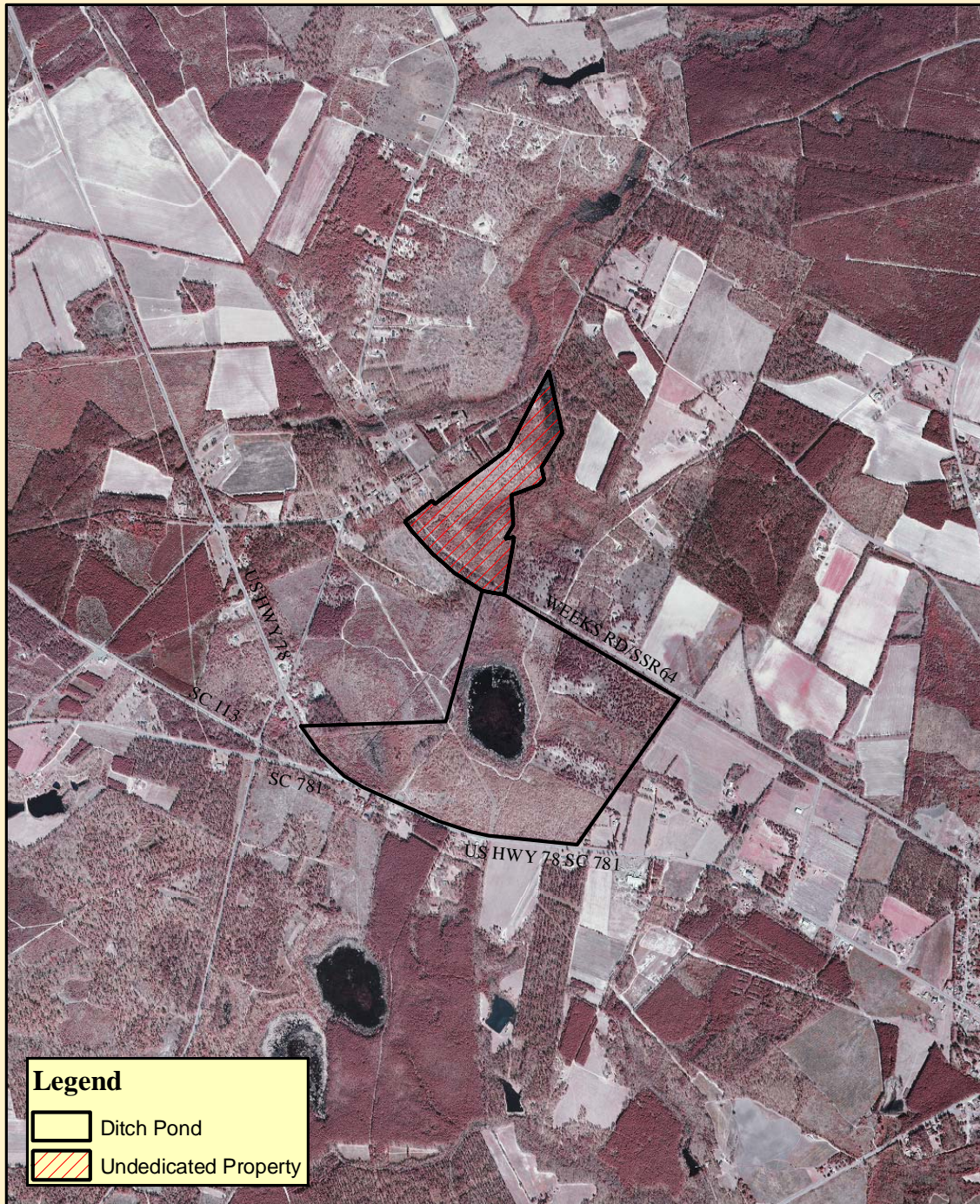
This plan will be updated no less than every 5 years or as needed to meet the preserve's management goals. Pertinent deeds, plats, dedication agreements, and other preserve information are available for public inspection at the SCDNR office in Columbia. For more information on DP HP contact Region 3 Heritage Preserve Manager Brett M. Moule at P.O. Box 167, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29202, Phone Number 803-734-3886.

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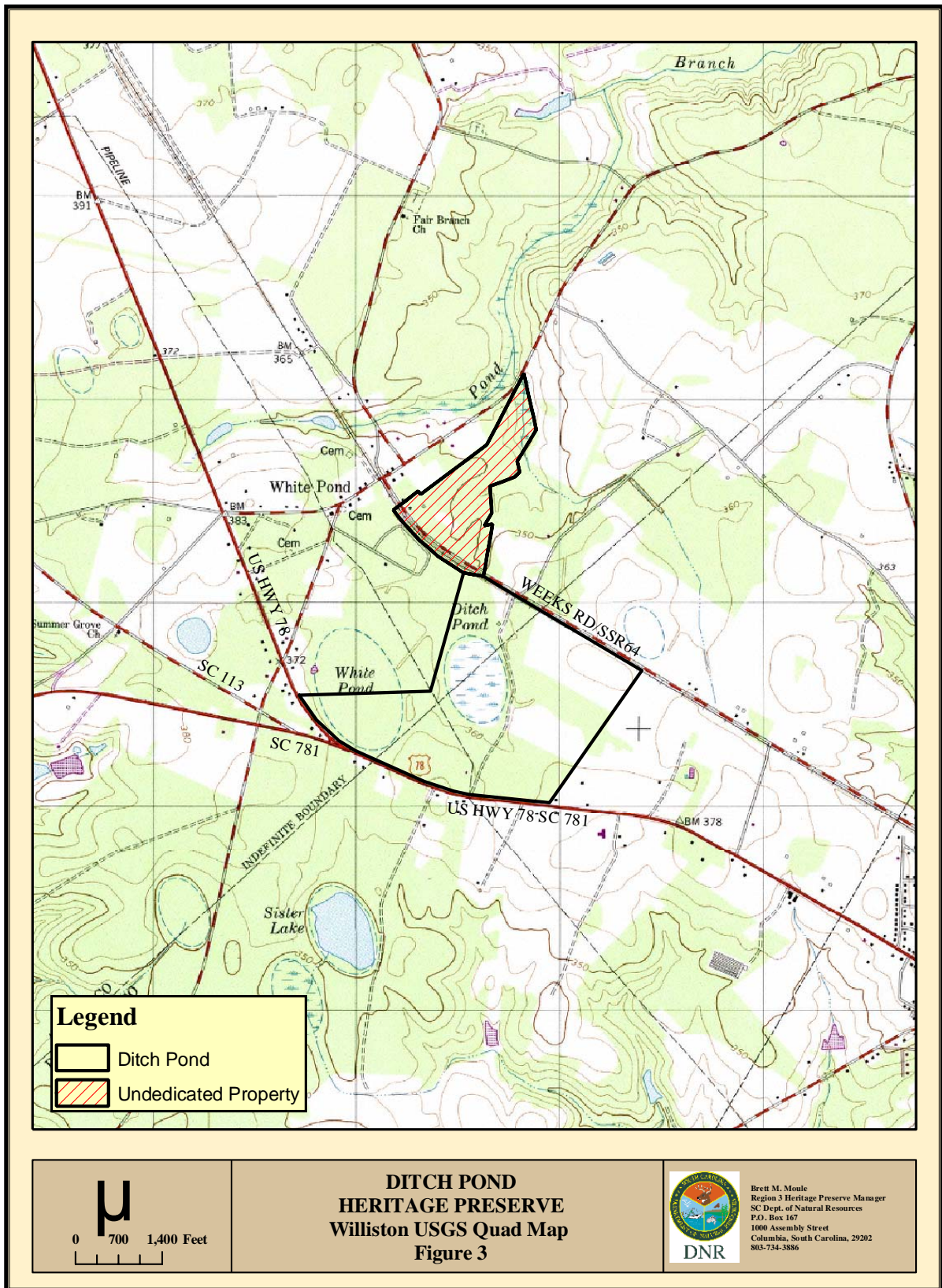


**DITCH POND  
HERITAGE PRESERVE  
2006 Aerial Photograph  
Figure 2**

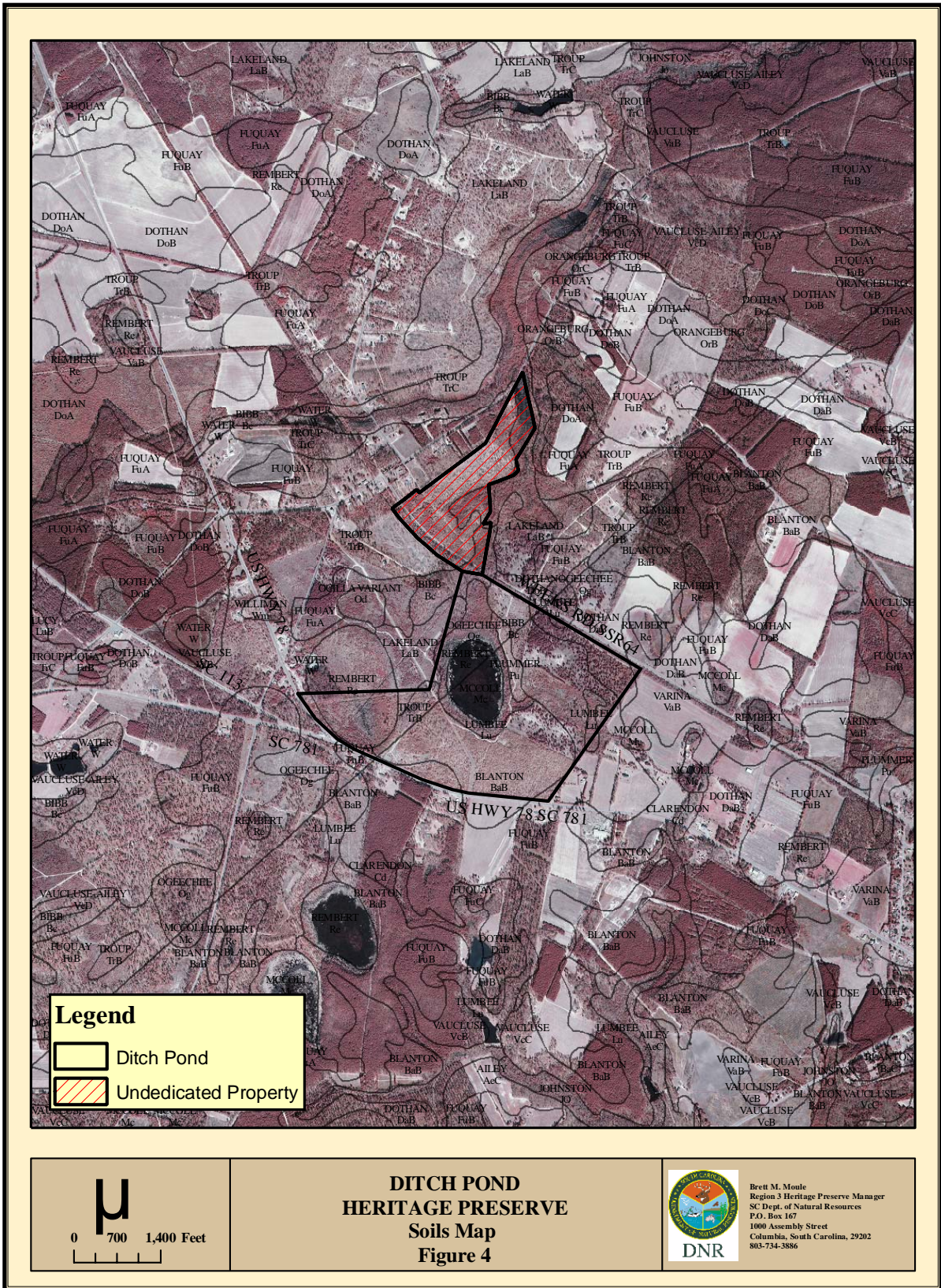


Brett M. Moule  
Region 3 Heritage Preserve Manager  
SC Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 167  
1000 Assembly Street  
Columbia, South Carolina, 29202  
803-734-3886

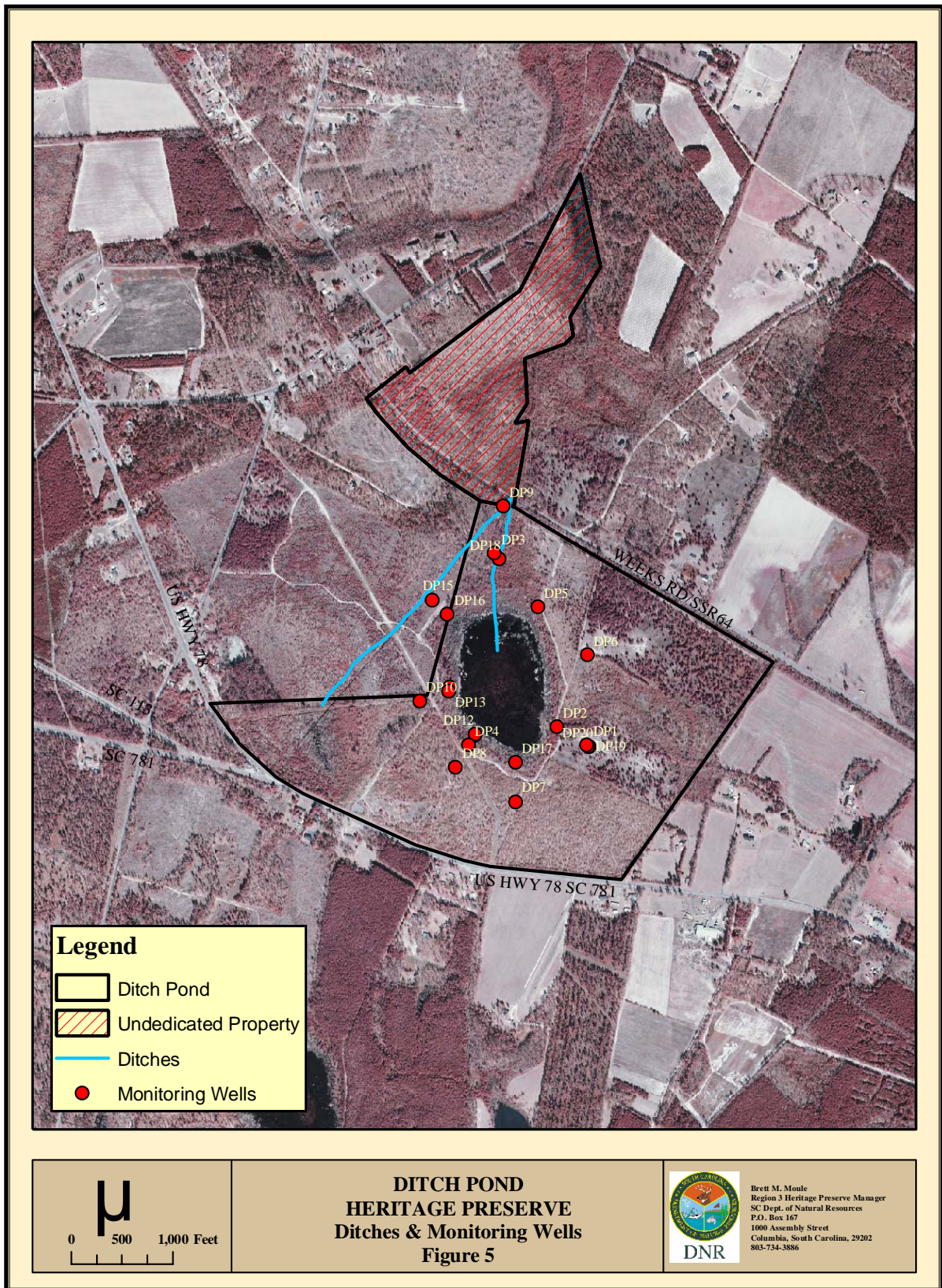












## APPENDIX A

### Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve

#### Regulations

Visitation and use of this Heritage Preserve are governed by regulations to promote public enjoyment of the land while preserving the features that make it special. Written below is an abbreviated version of the regulations. Additional regulations apply: (<http://www.scstatehouse.net/regs/2685.doc>). Please contact South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) at 803-734-3886 for more information on the regulations for use of this preserve. Please report violations to 1-800-922-5431.

1. Heritage preserves are open for public use from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset unless otherwise posted or publicized. Exceptions may occur for a special hunting season or field trip, in designated camping areas, or for approved research or other projects.
2. Parking is allowed only for preserve visitors and only in designated areas (which may be parking lots and/or roadsides, depending on the preserve). Any other parking is prohibited. No vehicle shall block any road, regardless of whether the road is gated.
3. Collection, removal, or possession of, or damaging or destroying any nongame animal, plant, rock, fossil, artifact or ecofact, or the possession of a metal detector on a Heritage Preserve are all prohibited without written permission from the SCDNR.
4. No person shall abuse, damage, deface or destroy land, structures, signs or improvements on this preserve.
5. There shall be no placement of trash, debris, rubbish, waste, or chemicals on the preserve.
6. The consumption or display of any alcoholic beverage while operating or riding as a passenger in any vehicle and public drunkenness is not allowed. Alcoholic beverages may only be consumed by a person of lawful age only while camping at a designated campsite.
7. Camping and fires are not permitted unless areas have been designated or special written permission from SCDNR has been granted.
8. All terrain vehicles (ATVs) are prohibited on all Heritage Preserves.
9. Motorized vehicles are allowed only on designated roadways. Bicycles, horses and other conveyances are allowed only on designated trails of specified preserves.
10. Hunting is allowed only on designated preserves and only in accordance with Wildlife Management Area regulations.
11. Firearms are not allowed, except on heritage preserves designated as Wildlife Management Areas and then only in accordance with Wildlife Management Area regulations, or as otherwise provided by state law. Target and other practice shooting are prohibited.
12. No plants, animals or other organisms may be introduced on the property.
13. All or part of a Heritage Preserve may be closed to the public to protect a species of concern, or natural, cultural, historical, or archaeological features.
14. Violators will be prosecuted.

#### Please Note:

- Horseback riding is allowed only on roadways and trails. Riders may ride in groups no larger than five.
- Bicycles may be ridden on hiking trails. Bicyclists may ride in groups no larger than five.
- Bring your own drinking water.
- No trash receptacles - take your trash out with you.
- No public facilities.
- No plant, animal, artifact or any other natural or cultural material may be taken or disturbed.
- Motorized vehicles, camping, or fires are not permitted.
- Not wheelchair accessible.

## **Appendix B**

### **List of 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Reviewers**

Osborn E. (Buddy) Baker, III  
Region 3 Coordinator, SCDNR

Johnny Stowe  
Region 2 Heritage Preserve Manager, SCDNR

Mary Bunch  
Region 1 Heritage Preserve Manager, SCDNR

Deanna Ruth  
Region 4 Heritage Preserve Manager, SCDNR

Jamie Dozier  
Assistant Project Leader for the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Ctr

Haven Barnhill  
Unit 3C—Wildlife Biologist, SCDNR

Mike Caudell  
Unit 3B—Wildlife Biologist, SCDNR

Bob Harkins  
Unit 3A—Wildlife Biologist, SCDNR

Bert Pittman  
Heritage Trust Botanist, SCDNR

Scott Harder  
Land and Water—Hydrologist, SCDNR

## **EXHIBIT 1**

### **APPROPRIATE USE DETERMINATION**

(Recreational Use of SCDNR Properties Policy #203.04)

**Property Name:** Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve

**Use:** Camping

<b><u>DECISION CRITERIA</u></b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Is the use a natural resource-dependent recreational use of a property?</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Do we have jurisdiction over the use?</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Does the use comply with applicable laws and regulations (Federal, State or local)?</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Is the use consistent with applicable state or SCDNR policies?</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Is the use consistent with public safety?</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>If the use was evaluated under previous administrative review, was it deemed appropriate?</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>Does the use contribute to the public's understanding and appreciation of the property's natural or cultural resources, or is the use beneficial to the property's natural or cultural resources?</b>		<b>X</b>

**To be found appropriate, answers to ALL of the above questions must be YES.**

  X   Not Appropriate            Appropriate

#### **Comments:**

123-204.C—Hours of Operation

Heritage preserves are open for public use from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

51-17-80.1—Establishment of Heritage Preserves

The primary dedication as a Heritage Preserve shall be to preserve and protect the natural or cultural character of any area or feature so established.

The primary objective of this preserve is to protect the Carolina bay, the rare plant species found within the bay, and a mature upland hardwood forest (oak-hickory complex). This preserve, is split between the Aiken and Barnwell County lines, protects the following rare plant species: Piedmont Bladderwort (*Utricularia olivaceae*); Florida bladderwort (*Utricularia floridana*); Robbin's spikerush (*Eleocharis robbinsii*); awned meadowbeauty, *Rhexia aristosa*; slender arrowhead, *Sagittaria isoetiformis*; and blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum*).



## **EXHIBIT 2**

### **COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION**

**USE:** Camping

**PROPERTY NAME:** Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve

**ACQUISITION AUTHORITY (INCLUDE PRESCRIPTIVE PURPOSES, ANY PROPERTY USE RESTRICTIONS ESTABLISHED BY DEED OR GRANT, ETC.):** The South Carolina General Assembly and Governor provided for the establishment of the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program, wherein the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' Board has been designated as the trustee for acquisition and management of Heritage Preserves. Heritage Preserve Dedication Agreements (DA) and Trust Easements (TE) were filed for Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve, in both Aiken and Barnwell County, South Carolina. Each Trust Easement directs:

- (1) The essential natural character of the property shall be maintained.
- (2) There shall be no erection of any improvements thereon except those minimal improvements necessary for the security, safety, or convenience of the public and those required for maintenance and management.
- (3) Cutting or burning of timber, wood or other destruction of flora or fauna shall be permitted only for conservation or regeneration of flora or fauna; or for the control of plant succession by deliberate manipulation for restoration or preservation of a particular vegetation type or of an endangered species of flora, fauna or wildlife; or for the establishment and maintenance of nature and hiking trails, camping areas and the like where compatible and consistent with the character of the area or feature concerned and not seriously damaging or detrimental to the natural quality of the property.
- (4) No stream shall be dammed or have its course altered.
- (5) No motorized vehicles shall be permitted on the property other than those utilized by the trustee or its agents in management and protection of the property or used by the general public for ingress and egress to the property in compliance with the management plan for the area or feature concerned.
- (6) No change shall be made in the general topography of the area or feature except for those minimal alterations which may be necessary to provide on-foot access to the public for visitation, or observation; and this shall be done only where wholly compatible and consistent with the character of the property and where no detrimental effect shall result.
- (7) No activity shall be allowed or permitted which might pollute any stream, body of water, or the atmosphere.

(8) No signs, billboards or other advertising of any kind shall be erected; however, informational and directional signs related to the designation of the area or feature as a Heritage Preserve and related to the public's enjoyment thereof shall be allowed when approved by the trustee.

(9) No other acts or uses which are detrimental to the retention of the property in its natural state shall be allowed, including those detrimental to flood control, drainage, water conservation, erosion control or soil conservation, or fish or wildlife habitat preservation.

(10) Where cultural areas or features are involved, reasonable excavation, improvement and the like shall be allowed for research purposes as well as to restore such area or feature.

(11) The trust shall continue in perpetuity.

**PROPERTY PURPOSE:** The Purpose of the Heritage Trust Program is defined in Section 51-17-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws as amended. The Dedication Agreements filed in Aiken and Barnwell Counties, SC (Aiken County: Deed: Book 2249, Page 86, DA: Book 1167, Page 297, TE: Book 2282, Page 331; Barnwell County: Deed Book 562, Page 77, DA: Book 572, TE: Book 572, Page 299) specifically reference that acquisition of this property was to ensure the protection of the Carolina bay and the rare plant species found within the bay.

**SCDNR MISSION:** The SCDNR Mission is to serve as the principal advocate for and steward of South Carolina's natural resources.

**DESCRIPTION OF USE:** As defined in Regulations 123-201: Camping means the overnight occupancy of Department land.

**AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES:** With the current budget and staff, camping for recreation would divert management efforts away from the proper and reasonable management of the property.

**ANTICIPATED IMPACTS OF THE USE:** It is anticipated that, with the current SCDNR resources available, camping would result in the failure of compliance with some or all of items 1 & 3 of the Trust Easements.

**DETERMINATION (CHECK ONE BELOW):**

☒ **USE IS NOT COMPATIBLE**  
☐ **USE IS COMPATIBLE**

## **DITCH POND HERITAGE PRESEVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Submitted by:

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Brett M. Moule  
Region 3 Heritage Preserve Manager

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Date

Approved By:

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Osborn E. (Buddy) Baker, III  
Regional Coordinator –Wildlife Region 3

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Date

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Timothy L. Ivey  
Chief of Wildlife –Wildlife Section

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Date

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D. Breck Carmichael, Jr.  
Deputy Director –Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

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Date

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John E. Frampton  
Director –South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

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Date

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Michael G. McShane  
Chairman  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Board

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Date

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Date Approved by Heritage Trust Advisory Board

Date

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Date Approved by SCDNR Board

Date